

ENGLANDS
APPEALE
TO ITS OWN
ARMY.
OR
The loud cry of an oppressed
KINGDOME
Against their oppressors

BEING
A Declaration of the indirect and treacherous practises of severall
Members of the House of Commons, who contrary to their trust
have endeavoured to enslave the King and Kingdome un-
der an arbitrary power, contrary to Law and
Justice, and the practise of former Parliaments.

Published at the earnest desire of some well-affected Gentry and Com-
mons of this Kingdome

ENGLANDS

A P P E A L E

TO ITS OVVNES

A R M Y.

OR THE LOUD CRY OF AN OPPRESSED KINGDOME
against their oppressors.

GAllant Souldiers, you who God hath honoured with successe, to the admiration of your friends, and astonishment of your enemies: Now let us see whether you will prove faithfull to England yea, or no: VVhether the publicke peace and welfare of this poore sinking Kingdome, be of so high esteeme with you, as your owne ease and particular interest or no; if you dare not trust God at Jordan, which hath wrought wonders for you in the wilderness; delivered you out of the hands of Pharaoh; and brought you through the Red-Sea; if you will say after all this Manaa, but can God give us flesh also; if yee will thus dishonour God before the People; yee may come with Moses to see that good Land that shall flow with righteousness and peace; but not possesse it. [Therefore be of good courage, and let us play the men for our People, and for the City of our God, and the Lord doe that which seemeth him good: 2 Sam. 1. 12.]

If yee have hitherto had confidence in your owne wisdom and strength. If yee have hitherto sought your owne exaltation and selfe interests in your actions. If yee hitherto preferred your owne pay and Arreares, your owne honour, and vindications; before the publick peace and welfare of the Kingdome; let us know it; do not dissemble any longer with us; let us have some time to prepare our selves to become slaves.

But if God have hitherto been your wisdom and strength; if the Kingdomes peace and safety have been of greater value with you

you then our own lives, if it had beene the honour and glory of
God, you have sought more. Then what other vindication and
reputation, why is it not so said? Did we ever thinke you would
be mercenary Souldiers, you are not all French and Scotch,
sure there is some of you fire-borne English-men; wee thought
you had beene equally interested with us in the common-wealths
good. What have you lost your interest and freedomes by fight-
ing for them? If yett had beene in France fighting there for mo-
ney against Spaine; yee might have demanded as much there up-
on your disbanding, as you have requested here yett.

Surely there is some other grievance lies upon your spirits,
besides pay or interch, as arrears, indolence, Vindication;
you pretend in your Declaration you could with other things;
wee hope your expectations in relation to your worke, will be
equall to that of your wages. Have you taken all the paine and
put us to all this cost to set up the building of a well grounded
peace, and will ye leave it to flintly burne, as the least blast of
wind shall blow it over againe, and to make our latter end
worse then our beginning?

But wee hope you cannot, you dare not thus deale with us.
The generallity of your carriage and demeanour amongst us,
hath promised better things; your severall Declarations to your
Souldiers in the behalfe of the Country, as you marched along,
your sincere and exemplary proceedings against any of them
that did us any wrong; cannot but beget better thoughts in us
towards you.

For wee must confesse, wee never could distinguish betwixt
Cavaliers and Roundheads by their carriage amongst us, if you
were an Army, or at least a great part of you in armes for us;
and since God hath made you usefull to affect many of us to the
Parliament, by your faire carriage to us: Doe not leave us till
in some measure wee be assured of our expectations; lest we have
not come to say, you have therein beate a snare to us.

Therefore wee declare to you, if you disband or lay downe
Armes, before wee have some farther and fuller assurance of a
peaceable enjoyment of our liberties and freedomes, and to live
under the government and protection of our knowne Lawes,
which

which you have often times pretended you sought to maintain, you doe as much as in you lye betray us into bondage and slavery: had wee not been conquered into subjection to arbitrary government, wee should never have been Voted to it: therefore for your farther satisfaction concerning not disbanding, wee shall referre to your consideration these following reasons.

1. Because we conceive you did not take up armes to defend either boundlesse prerogative, or unlimited priviledges, but to maintaine the common liberties of all the free-borne People of England, against all tyrannicall usurpations, and unjust oppressions by whomsoever exercised; and since by the blessing of God, you have delivered your selves and Kingdome from the former, wee conceive its your duty to doe your utmost to preserve us from the latter, at least to let us know where the cause lyes wee are not tired of our unsupportable burdens, and settled in the enjoyment of our just Liberties and freedoms.

2. Because (we conceive) you are not engaged in this warre by any mercenary considerations, of profits or preferments, but as men equally interested in the things ye fought for. And many of you chosen and intrusted by the Kingdome as members of the Parliament, and you thereby are as equally concerned in the proceedings of the Parliament, be they good or bad, as you are in the actions of the Army; and what you have done or declared to do for the Kingdome as Parliament men, you ought to do by your utmost to maintaine and make good as you are Souldiers: and considering that the late proceedings of the Parliament have beene absolute contrary to their former Declarations, and Protestations, whereby they will not only bring upon themselves but you, the guilt of all the blood which hath been shed in resistance of opposing tyranny and oppression, when at this present there is more arbitrary tyranny and oppression, upon the poore Commons, then ever there was since man can remember, which wee hope you will not be the authors of.

3. Because this present Parliament is not a free Parliament, there being many of the late elections have had under the proceedings in the choyce of new members, they having not been left to the free choyce of the People, but have been first choise by par-

ticular Parliament men, and then recommended by insinuating Letters to the severall Countiees and Corporations, they are chosen by; which by reason of that influence some Committees and some others, had over the said Countiees and places, they durst not doe other, but choole them: many of the same members which thus chuseth others, are themselves guilty of high misdemeanour, some of them having long lyen under the charge of betraying their trust, others of ingroing the publicke stock into their own hands, and so have cheated the Common-wealth of vast summes of money; and for their owne security of being accomptable to the Kingdome for what they have done, have they procured by those unjust elections such men as are either interested with themselves in some guilt to the publicke as they have been Countrey Committees; or else such as they have had particular interest in, and relation to, and so might corrupt and sway them at their pleasure: by which meanes you had of late the major part of the House carried on to such contradictory proceedings to their former Declarations, and Protestations; they having beene more mindfull of deviding the Common-wealths money among themselves, then they have beene of paying the Common-wealths iust debts; as if they were resolved never to leave raising of money as long as the Commons of England be worth a penny.

4 Because the end of your disbanding, is not to ease us of the charge of an Army, there being already provision made to continue an Army every whit as chargeable, and to be feared will be more oppressive, and abusive to us then ever you have borne: but their designe is (as fast as they can accomplish it) to new modelize the Army and Parliament too; and to intrust none but such, as are equally guilty with themselves, or in some kind interested in their design, which is to dis-throne the King, and inflave the People, and set themselves up as Lords and Kings in his roome, and so in stead of having an Army to protect us, wee shall have an Army in our owne bowels, paid by us, to inflave us; but wee hope since you expect your due in point of wages from us, you will give us leave to tell you wee expect the performance of your duty in point of faithfulnessse from you
hardly

hardly thinking you can in honesty or conscience demand all your arrears or wages till you have brought your work to some fuller perfection, for if you leave us thus, you leave us in a worse condition then you found us.

5. Because we have found more Justice and benefit from our trustees in Parliament, within these ten daies, since you have stood up and declared for us, then wee had formerly received in ten monethes, when you stood as it were Neuters to us: as witnesseth those selfe-denying Votes; The taking off the Excise from flesh and Salt, except their desires to hasten the Propositions to the King: their approving your Petition, and answering your grievances; their relieving the necessitie of severall reformed Officers which formerly were out of hopes; all which makes us confident, that if according to your declaring there were a period set to this Parliament, and provision made for further Parliaments to succeed one another, whereby Parliaments might know they were questionable, for their actions at such a period of time, and should then expect to find an impartiall communicating of Justice to all the free-borne People of this Kingdome: and wee cannot expect it before. Therefore we declare to you, if you will stand by us in those iust and impartiall things you have declared to us, wee are resolved to stand by you, and own you in them, to the utmost of our abilities and last drop of our blood.

F I N I S.